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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the stated meeting of the executive council April 9, Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook, the society's field agent, presented a report on his work and a discussion of the possibilities of historical field work.

The legislature appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars a year for the maintenance of the society during the biennium beginning August 1, 1917. This increase of five thousand dollars over the annual appropriations for the last ten years will barely cover the increased expenses due to the general rise in prices and will not permit any considerable expansion of the activities of the society.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending April 30, 1917: Professor Carl D. A. F. Abbetmeyer of St. Paul; Hjalmar Anderson of Rush City; Rev. Philip Gordon of White Earth; Cyril A. Herrick of Minneapolis; Hiram M. Hitchcock of Redwood Falls; Mrs. Marie L. Bottineau Baldwin of Washington, District of Columbia; and O. G. Boisseau of Holden, Missouri. Deaths among the members during the same period were as follows: Bishop Samuel C. Edsall of Minneapolis, February 17; Hon. Orlando B. Turrell of Redwood Falls, March 10; Lycurgus R. Moyer of Montevideo, March 14; Josiah Paine of Harwich, Massachusetts, March 14; and General Judson W. Bishop of St. Paul, March 19. All were active members except Mr. Paine, who was a corresponding member.

The *Western Magazine* for March contains an article entitled "The Minnesota Historical Society, an Exposition of the Importance of Its Public Work," by Franklin F. Holbrook, field agent of the society. Accompanying the article is a picture of the new building.

The inventory of the public archives of Minnesota, compiled by Mr. Herbert A. Kellar in 1915 under the joint auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society and the public archives commission

of the American Historical Association, has been reprinted from the *Annual Report* of the association for 1914 with the title *A Preliminary Survey of the More Important Archives of the Territory and State of Minnesota* (Washington, 1916. Pp. 385-476). Mr. Kellar's survey consists of detailed lists of the papers and records in the offices of the governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, adjutant general, clerk of the supreme court, superintendent of education, insurance department, railroad and warehouse commission, department of grain inspection, department of weights and measures, dairy and food department, and state drainage engineer. As the present location of files in the vaults and offices is indicated, the work will greatly facilitate the consultation of the records for administrative as well as for historical purposes. The outstanding conclusion to be drawn from the report is that there is great need of more adequate provision for the arrangement and preservation of these fundamental materials for the history of Minnesota. "In most cases the officials have made the best use of what opportunities there were for safe-guarding archives; but, with the exception of those in the regular office vaults in the new capitol, there is no guarantee of safety from fire and water." Almost equally serious is the disorderly condition of many of the older records, exposed to dirt and in danger of destruction as waste paper. It is to be hoped that the legislature will ultimately provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an archives department in the new Minnesota Historical Society Building.

GIFTS

From Judge Grier M. Orr the society has received a collection of about seventy miscellaneous pamphlets, some of which are of considerable value for Minnesota history, and a partial file of the *Minnesota Law Journal* published from 1893 to 1898. Numbers 2, 3, and 5 to 8 inclusive of volume 1, numbers 4 and 5 of volume 4, and number 9 of volume 5 are needed to complete the file.

From Joseph R. Murtaugh, manager of the Bronson-Folsom Towing Company, Stillwater, have been received six account books of trips made in 1908 and 1909 by the "Clyde," a steamer

engaged in rafting logs and lumber on the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers between Stillwater and Dubuque, Iowa. The record of each trip includes detailed accounts of expenditures for labor, fuel, food, and sundries, the "log book," and an account of rafts received and delivered.

Mr. Cass Canfield has presented a small, attractively bound volume published by himself, containing a number of letters found among old papers belonging to his great grandfather Lewis Cass. The collection, issued under the title *General Lewis Cass, 1782-1866* (1916. 41 p.), includes letters to Cass from James Monroe, Louis Philippe, Andrew Jackson, and James Buchanan, and two written by Cass himself.

Besides three volumes of *Indiana Historical Collections* and eight numbers of its *Bulletin*, the Indiana Historical Commission has presented a copy of the medal designed by Miss Janet Saddler and struck in commemoration of the centennial of the admission of Indiana to the Union in 1816. This is mounted in an attractive booklet containing information about the medal, the centennial, and the history of the state. The copy received is number 904 of 918 proofs, and the booklet contains the personal autograph of Governor Samuel M. Ralston.

The Rice Statue Commission has presented the society with a copy of a book entitled *Statue of Henry Mower Rice* (Washington, 1916. 90 p.), in which are printed the proceedings at Statuary Hall, in the Senate, and in the House of Representatives on the occasion of the presentation and acceptance of the statue of Henry M. Rice. A photogravure reproduction of the statue forms the frontispiece of the volume.

Copies of the *New York Evening Post* of February 8 and 9, 1815, have been presented by Mr. H. N. Westaway of Duluth. The latter of these issues is especially interesting as it contains the news of the battle of New Orleans.

From Miss Julia Crooks of St. Paul has been received an annotated copy of Irving's *Astoria* formerly the property of her grandfather Ramsay Crooks and said to have been presented to him by the author.

The society has received from Mr. Frederic W. Pearsall of Granite Falls a very good specimen of the ancient cloth woven by the Sioux women a hundred or more years ago. It is in the form of a bag about seven inches wide and five inches deep. In the earliest time the yarn employed in the manufacture of the cloth was spun from the shredded bark of nettles or basswood trees; later worn-out woolen cloth was utilized. Both sorts of yarn were apparently used to make the bag just acquired.

A photograph of eight members of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, taken in St. Paul in 1896, at the time of the thirtieth national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, has been received from Charles A. Rose, document clerk in the office of the secretary of state.